

Databases — SQL2

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This lecture

This lecture introduces the fundamental concept of

- `SELECT` from multiple tables

In order to select from multiple tables, the tables must be *joined* — so this lecture is also about the various types of `JOIN`.

Multiple table selections

The real power (and complexity) of `SELECT` comes from the ability to rapidly extract data from *more than one* table.

A multiple table `SELECT` statement can become *very complex*, and (unfortunately) the syntax can often seem somewhat counterintuitive — this is largely because the lack of general programming constructs in SQL.

The key to mentally parsing SQL statements is to keep in mind the fundamental “row-processing loop”

- *Construct rows* according to the `FROM` statement
- *Filter rows* according to the `WHERE` statement
- *Extract columns* according to the `SELECT` statement

A sample schema

We use the following sample tables:

- `Student` – this stores student numbers and student names

```
CREATE TABLE Student(id CHAR(8), name VARCHAR(64));
```

- `Unit` – this stores unit codes and unit names

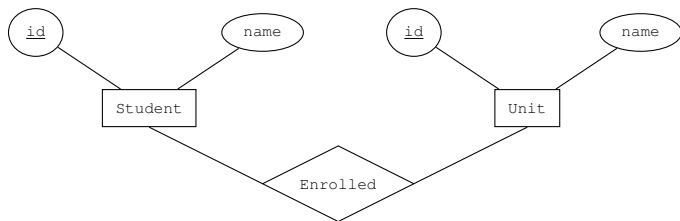
```
CREATE TABLE Unit(id CHAR(8), name VARCHAR(64));
```

- `Enrolled` – this stores enrolment information

```
CREATE TABLE Enrolled (sid CHAR(8), uid CHAR(8));
```

The *intention* of this set up is that the table `Enrolled` is meant to “connect” the other two tables — later we will see how to *enforce this* rule in SQL.

An ER diagram



A diagram like this is called an *entity-relationship* (or ER) diagram — it shows the *entities* being modelled and the *relationships* between them.

Student

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM Student;
```

```
+-----+-----+  
| id    | name  |  
+-----+-----+  
| 1     | Amy   |  
| 2     | Bob   |  
| 3     | Chao  |  
| 4     | Emily |  
| 5     | Fan   |  
+-----+-----+
```

```
5 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

There are a total of 5 students.

Unit

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM Unit;
+-----+-----+
| id      | name      |
+-----+-----+
| CITS1401 | Databases |
| CITS1402 | Programming |
| MATH1001 | Maths 1   |
| MATH1002 | Maths 2   |
+-----+-----+
4 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

There are a total of 4 units.

Enrolled

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM Enrolled;
```

```
+-----+-----+
| sid  | uid      |
+-----+-----+
| 1    | CITS1401 |
| 2    | CITS1401 |
| 4    | CITS1401 |
| 2    | CITS1402 |
| 3    | CITS1402 |
| 4    | CITS1402 |
| 1    | MATH1001 |
| 2    | MATH1001 |
| 3    | MATH1001 |
+-----+-----+
```

```
9 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

There are a total of 9 enrolments.

A class list

With these tables, how can we find out who is taking CITS1402?

- The *enrolment information* is in Enrolled
- The *student name information* is in Student

Somehow we have to *combine* these tables to pull out the information.

The basic join

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM Student, Enrolled;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id  | name  | sid  | uid      |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1   | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 2   | Bob   | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 3   | Chao  | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 4   | Emily | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 5   | Fan   | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 1   | Amy   | 2    | CITS1401 |
| 2   | Bob   | 2    | CITS1401 |
| 3   | Chao  | 2    | CITS1401 |
| 4   | Emily | 2    | CITS1401 |
| 5   | Fan   | 2    | CITS1401 |
....
| 4   | Emily | 3    | MATH1001 |
| 5   | Fan   | 3    | MATH1001 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

```
45 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Yikes, why are there 45 rows in this table?

The basic join

MySQL produces *every possible row* constructed by “gluing together” a row from Student and a row from Enrolled.

```
+-----+-----+           +-----+-----+
| id   | name  |           | sid  | uid   |
+-----+-----+           +-----+-----+
| 1    | Amy   |           | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 2    | Bob   |           | 2    | CITS1401 |
| 3    | Chao  |           |      |      |
...     ...
```

This give us

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id   | name  | sid  | uid   |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 2    | Bob   | 1    | CITS1401 |
| 3    | Chao  | 1    | CITS1401 |
...     ...
```

Cartesian product

In fact, this command has computed the *entire Cartesian product*

```
Student × Enrolled
```

The Cartesian product contains rows whose “first half” and “second half” relate to *different students*, but we want the join to compute *only* the valid rows.

In other words we want to “match up” the rows so that we only keep the ones where the `id` column matches the `sid` column.

Use WHERE

```
SELECT *  
FROM Student, Enrolled  
WHERE id = sid;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+  
| id    | name  | sid  | uid      |  
+-----+-----+-----+-----+  
| 1     | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 |  
| 2     | Bob   | 2    | CITS1401 |  
| 4     | Emily | 4    | CITS1401 |  
| 2     | Bob   | 2    | CITS1402 |  
| 3     | Chao  | 3    | CITS1402 |  
| 4     | Emily | 4    | CITS1402 |  
| 1     | Amy   | 1    | MATH1001 |  
| 2     | Bob   | 2    | MATH1001 |  
| 3     | Chao  | 3    | MATH1001 |  
+-----+-----+-----+-----+  
9 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

The class list

We need to modify this in two ways — just print the *names* and only for the rows corresponding to CITS1402.

```
SELECT name
FROM Student, Enrolled
WHERE id = sid
      AND uid = 'CITS1402';
```

```
+-----+
```

```
| name |
```

```
+-----+
```

```
| Bob  |
```

```
| Chao |
```

```
| Emily|
```

```
+-----+
```

```
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

The second WHERE condition is playing a subtly different role to the first — the first condition is “*setting up the correct table*” while the second condition is “*selecting the rows we want*”.

Moving the join condition

We can separate out the join condition using a different construct that explicitly highlights the join — this is the `JOIN...ON` construction.

```
SELECT *
FROM Student JOIN Enrolled
      ON id = sid;
```

id	name	sid	uid
1	Amy	1	CITS1401
2	Bob	2	CITS1401
4	Emily	4	CITS1401
2	Bob	2	CITS1402
3	Chao	3	CITS1402
4	Emily	4	CITS1402
1	Amy	1	MATH1001

Put the WHERE conditions back

```
SELECT *
FROM Student JOIN Enrolled
ON id = sid
WHERE uid = 'CITS1402';
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id    | name  | sid  | uid      |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 2     | Bob   | 2    | CITS1402 |
| 3     | Chao  | 3    | CITS1402 |
| 4     | Emily | 4    | CITS1402 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

The phrase `INNER JOIN` can be used rather than `JOIN`, although they have exactly the same meaning.

Cartesian Products

There are (at least) *three other* ways to get the Cartesian product of two tables.

```
SELECT * FROM Student CROSS JOIN Enrolled;  
SELECT * FROM Student CARTESIAN JOIN Enrolled;  
SELECT * FROM Student JOIN Enrolled;
```

A three-table join

Suppose we want a class list containing the names of students taking Databases (i.e. this time we don't know that the right code is `CITS1402`).

- We need the `Student` table for the *student name* information
- We need the `Unit` table for the *unit name* information
- We need the `Enrolled` table to “connect” the right students with the right units

Triple product

```
SELECT * FROM Student, Enrolled, Unit;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| id   | name  | sid  | uid      | id      | name      |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 | CITS1402 | Programming |
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 | MATH1002 | Maths 2   |
| 2    | Bob   | 1    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |
| 2    | Bob   | 1    | CITS1401 | CITS1402 | Programming |
...
...
| 5    | Fan   | 3    | MATH1001 | CITS1402 | Programming |
| 5    | Fan   | 3    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |
| 5    | Fan   | 3    | MATH1001 | MATH1002 | Maths 2   |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
180 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Doing the join

This produces the *triple* Cartesian product

`Student × Enrolled × Unit`

so what conditions are needed to ensure that the join makes sense?

- We need `id = sid` to correctly join `Student` **and** `Enrolled`
- We need `uid = id` to correctly join `Enrolled` **and** `Unit`

But we have *two columns* called `id`?

Disambiguation

```
SELECT *  
FROM Student JOIN Enrolled JOIN Unit  
ON id = sid AND uid = id;
```

```
ERROR 1052 (23000): Column 'id' in on clause is ambiguous
```

The error message says it all — the column `id` is ambiguous, so we need to be able to specify “the `id` column that originally came from `Student`”.

Qualifying the columns

```
SELECT *  
FROM Student JOIN Enrolled JOIN Unit  
ON Student.id = sid AND Unit.id = uid;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+  
| id   | name  | sid  | uid   | id   | name      |  
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+  
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |  
| 2    | Bob   | 2    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |  
| 4    | Emily | 4    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |  
| 2    | Bob   | 2    | CITS1402 | CITS1402 | Programming |  
| 3    | Chao  | 3    | CITS1402 | CITS1402 | Programming |  
| 4    | Emily | 4    | CITS1402 | CITS1402 | Programming |  
| 1    | Amy   | 1    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |  
| 2    | Bob   | 2    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |  
| 3    | Chao  | 3    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |  
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+  
9 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Aliases

```
SELECT *
FROM Student S JOIN Enrolled E JOIN Unit U
ON S.id = E.sid AND E.uid = U.id
WHERE U.name = 'Databases';
```

id	name	sid	uid	id	name
1	Amy	1	CITS1401	CITS1401	Databases
2	Bob	2	CITS1401	CITS1401	Databases
4	Emily	4	CITS1401	CITS1401	Databases

The phrase `Student S` in the `FROM` clause means: “Use `S` as an alias for `Student` for this query”.

Natural Join

It is common for two tables to have columns with identical names because they refer to the same thing — for example, both `City` and `CountryLanguage` have a column `CountryCode` referring to the country.

```
SELECT Name, Language
FROM City C JOIN CountryLanguage L
ON C.CountryCode = L.CountryCode
WHERE Name = 'Perth';
```

```
+-----+-----+
| Name   | Language           |
+-----+-----+
| Perth  | Arabic             |
| Perth  | Canton Chinese    |
| Perth  | English           |
| Perth  | German            |
| Perth  | Greek             |
...

```


Natural Join

The `NATURAL JOIN` operator joins tables by matching *all columns* with the *same names*:

```
SELECT Name, Language
FROM City NATURAL JOIN CountryLanguage
WHERE Name = 'Perth';
```

```
+-----+-----+
| Name  | Language          |
+-----+-----+
| Perth | Arabic            |
| Perth | Canton Chinese   |
| Perth | English          |
| Perth | German           |
...

```

Being careful

The `NATURAL JOIN` may have some unexpected consequences in terms of the *other columns* — if a new column gets added to one of the tables that happens to have the same name as a column in the other, then the behaviour will mysteriously change.

To be safe, it is better to always make joins explicit.

```
SELECT Name, Language
FROM City JOIN CountryLanguage
    USING (CountryCode)
WHERE Name = 'Perth';
```

Inner Joins

We've seen a number of variants of the `JOIN` command

- **Comma, `CROSS JOIN`, `CARTESIAN JOIN`, `JOIN`, `INNER JOIN`**

```
SELECT * FROM T1, T2 WHERE ...
```

- **The `JOIN...ON` syntax**

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2 ON ...
```

- **The `NATURAL JOIN`**

```
SELECT * FROM T1 NATURAL JOIN T2 ...
```

- **The `JOIN...USING` syntax**

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2 USING (A);
```

Outer Joins

All of the joins from the previous slide are called *inner joins*.

If T_1 is joined to T_2 with any of the inner joins, then *every row* in the output is the result of “gluing together” a row from T_1 with a *matching row* from T_2 to form one “super-row”.

If a row of T_1 does not match anything, then it makes *no appearance* in the resulting table.

Left outer join

```
SELECT *
FROM   Student
      LEFT OUTER JOIN Enrolled
      ON Student.id = Enrolled.sid;
```

id	name	sid	uid
1	Amy	1	CITS1401
2	Bob	2	CITS1401
4	Emily	4	CITS1401
2	Bob	2	CITS1402
3	Chao	3	CITS1402
4	Emily	4	CITS1402
1	Amy	1	MATH1001
2	Bob	2	MATH1001
3	Chao	3	MATH1001
5	Fan	NULL	NULL

Right outer join

```
SELECT *
FROM   Enrolled E
       RIGHT OUTER JOIN Unit U
       ON E.uid = U.id;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| sid  | uid      | id      | name      |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |
| 2    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |
| 4    | CITS1401 | CITS1401 | Databases |
| 2    | CITS1402 | CITS1402 | Programming |
| 3    | CITS1402 | CITS1402 | Programming |
| 4    | CITS1402 | CITS1402 | Programming |
| 1    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |
| 2    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |
| 3    | MATH1001 | MATH1001 | Maths 1   |
| NULL | NULL     | MATH1002 | Maths 2   |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
10 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

Who is not enrolled this semester?

```
SELECT id,  
       name  
FROM   Student S  
       LEFT OUTER JOIN Enrolled E  
         ON S.id = E.sid  
WHERE  E.uid IS NULL;
```

```
+-----+-----+  
| id   | name |  
+-----+-----+  
| 5    | Fan  |  
+-----+-----+
```

Full outer join

If you want the unmatched rows from *both tables*, then a `FULL OUTER JOIN` or `FULL JOIN` is what you want.

However, `FULL JOIN` is not implemented in MySQL, but it is easily “emulated” by calling both `LEFT JOIN` and `RIGHT JOIN` and combining the results with `UNION`.

More than two tables

Many queries from our database will need *all three* tables; for example “What are the names of all students enrolled in Databases?”

```
SELECT S.sname
FROM Student S JOIN Enrolled E ON S.sid = E.sid
             JOIN Unit U ON E.uid = U.uid
WHERE U.uname = "Databases";
```

```
+-----+
| sname |
+-----+
| Jim   |
| Susan |
| Wei   |
+-----+
```

```
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

More than one column

Suppose we want to join two tables while matching *more than one column* ?

```
SELECT *  
FROM Table1 JOIN Table2 USING (A1, A2);
```

```
SELECT *  
FROM Table1 JOIN Table2 ON Table1.A1 = Table2.A1  
                        AND Table1.A2 = Table2.A2;
```

Sample tables

We'll do some practice joins, but just using arbitrary symbols rather than plausible names.

So, suppose that we have two tables $T1(A, B, C)$ and $T2(B, C, D)$

The notation $T1(A, B, C)$ means that:

- The name of the table is $T1$
- It has three columns
- The columns are called A , B and C

And similarly for $T2$.

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
mysql> SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

```
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2;
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2;
```

A	B	C	B	C	D
1	1	1	1	1	2
1	1	1	1	3	3
1	2	3	1	1	2
1	2	3	1	3	3
2	2	1	1	1	2
2	2	1	1	3	3
2	3	1	1	1	2
2	3	1	1	3	3

```
8 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+
| A     | B     | C     |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 1     | 1     | 1     |
| 1     | 2     | 3     |
| 2     | 2     | 1     |
| 2     | 3     | 1     |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+
| B     | C     | D     |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 1     | 1     | 2     |
| 1     | 3     | 3     |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2 USING (B);
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2 USING (B);
```

B	A	C	C	D
1	1	1	1	2
1	1	1	3	3

```
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```


What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2 ON T1.C = T2.C;
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 JOIN T2 ON T1.C = T2.C;
```

A	B	C	B	C	D
1	1	1	1	1	2
1	2	3	1	3	3
2	2	1	1	1	2
2	3	1	1	1	2

```
4 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 LEFT OUTER JOIN T2 USING (B);
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 LEFT OUTER JOIN T2 USING (B);
```

B	A	C	C	D
1	1	1	1	2
1	1	1	3	3
2	1	3	NULL	NULL
2	2	1	NULL	NULL
3	2	1	NULL	NULL

```
5 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 NATURAL JOIN T2;
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+
| A     | B     | C     |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 1     | 1     | 1     |
| 1     | 2     | 3     |
| 2     | 2     | 1     |
| 2     | 3     | 1     |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+
| B     | C     | D     |
+-----+-----+-----+
| 1     | 1     | 2     |
| 1     | 3     | 3     |
+-----+-----+-----+
```

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 NATURAL JOIN T2;
```

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| B     | C     | A     | D     |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 1     | 1     | 1     | 2     |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+
1 row in set (0.00 sec)
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 RIGHT OUTER JOIN T2 USING (B,C);
```

What is the output?

```
SELECT * FROM T1;
```

A	B	C
1	1	1
1	2	3
2	2	1
2	3	1

```
SELECT * FROM T2;
```

B	C	D
1	1	2
1	3	3

What is the output from the following query? (How many rows?)

```
SELECT * FROM T1 RIGHT OUTER JOIN T2 USING (B,C);
```

B	C	D	A
1	1	2	1
1	3	3	NULL

```
2 rows in set (0.00 sec)
```